

DARPA-BAA-16-19: Atomic Clock with Enhanced Stability (ACES)

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 16 February 2016

1. Is there a limit on the number of abstracts that an organization can submit?

No.

2. Can a leading proposer of TA-1 also be a lead for an unrelated TA-2 proposal?

No restriction is placed on submitting separate or multiple proposals to each TA.

3. Is a “fundamental research” sub-contract allowed within a restricted prime contract?

Yes. Note that any subcontract to be considered as basic research must be justified as indicated in Section II of the BAA under the header “Fundamental Research.”

4. How should prime contractors handle potential redundant funding component suppliers, for example, if a sub-contracting collaborator is potentially developing a component to support multiple prime contractors?

In the case where a sub-contractor is providing a partially redundant SOW and/or deliverables to multiple primes, it is recommended that the sub-contractor’s SOW separately identify and cost the common part of the effort from those aspects of development and deliverables that are unique to the individual prime contract.

5. Is DARPA open to small modifications in required metrics if it increases the chances of a successful transition?

The requirements for TA-1, BAA Table 1, are firm. Proposers addressing TA-2 are expected to propose metrics and deliverables for all phases of the proposed effort.

6. Are retrace, drift, and “tempco” to be tested over the full temperature range (-40 °C to 85 °C)?

Yes.

7. Phase II delivery may include rack electronics & possible commercial power supplies. Should these be purchased on the contract to facilitate the delivery or can they be “lent” to the government?

The physics package and electronics will be returned to the performer after Phase II government testing. Insofar as possible, cost efficiencies should be realized by loaning, rather than duplicating, equipment to support government testing.

8. Will choosing to use, or not use, the Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) affect the evaluation of the proposal?

No aspect of the BAA, including the GFE, indicates a government preference toward a specific clock or component technology. Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria established in BAA Section V(A).